

1001 24 2003
October 30, 2003

U.S. Department of State
CA/OCS/PRI
Adoption Regulations Docket Room, SA-29
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Re: Adoptions- Proposed Hague Regulations
docket number State/AR-01/96

To whom it may concern,

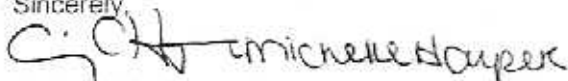
My wife and I are writing out of deep concern for all prospective parents planning to adopt in the future. As many other Connecticut Residents know, the adoption process is a long and arduous one. It is meant to be. It is designed for the protection of both prospective parents and children. It also works. There are many types of agencies to fit the needs of the communities and families that they serve.

For us, Thursday's Child is one of those agencies. We started at a regional agency, and while successful for some, it did not provide our family with the attention and support needed to navigate through the adoption maze. The new attempts to "standardize" and make a "one size fits all" process will surely diminish the opportunities for many families locally as well as nationally.

We would like to go on record in voicing our objections to these new proposed regulations. From a practical viewpoint, the burden of accreditation, imposition of single discipline (MSW) evaluation, and the separation of home-study and post-placement activities will put the smaller well qualified agencies, such as Thursday's Child, at risk of elimination. This will not equalize the playing field for adoptions and only favors the larger well capitalized institutional agencies. This will undoubtedly add hundreds, if not thousands of dollars to an already too expensive life choice.

We can only say in closing that without Thursday's Child and similar agencies, many families will be denied access to children waiting for families and that is unconscionable. Please re-think these proposed regulations and the impact that it will have on all the lives of affected families.

Sincerely,

 Michelle Harper

Craig, Michelle, and Madison Harper
Enfield, CT